



## Medical School Hotline

### **Student Profile: Class of 2006 John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)**

**Satoru Izutsu PhD  
Senior Associate Dean  
Chair, Admissions Committee**

One thousand sixty-six men and women applied for sixty-two positions in the 36<sup>th</sup> class at JABSOM. Of the total applicants, 881 were non-residents of the State of Hawaii and 185 were residents. Residency for application purposes is determined by a "kama'aina" screen that takes into consideration 5 factors: legal residency, birthplace, parents' residence, high school and college or professional school(s) attended. An applicant must have at least three of the five factors to be considered a "resident". Six of the total class are non-resident: one each from Guam, California, Montana, Washington, Marshall Islands, and Samoa.

Those candidates interviewed were selected on the basis of undergraduate Grade Point Averages (cumulative and science), scores on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), honor awards, extra-curricular activities and employment in health, medicine or human services, in general. For example, 10 or more points on the MCAT were given 2 points. Of the total of possible 22 points, a resident must score at least 7, a non-resident 14, and certified Western Interstate Commission of High Education and early decision candidates 10. Of the total number of candidates, 224 (141 residents and 83 non-residents) qualified to be interviewed by two of the 71 interviewers and the Chair of the Admissions Committee.

The eleven-member Admissions Committee, 5 men and 6 women, met 21 times between September, 2001 and May, 2002 to rate the 224 applicants. The Committee consisted of 8 clinicians, 2 basic scientists and 1 social scientist. The major ethnic groups and varied age groups were represented. The members examined the following documents of each applicant: academic transcript, MCAT scores, a biographical sketch (includes a chronological listing of extracurricular and work experiences) written by each candidate, letters of references, and three essays, "Describe succinctly the important experience (s) in your life which began the process that motivated you to enter the career of medicine", "Explain why you are applying to the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine", and, "... describe your life and medical practice as you envision them ten years from now". After a period of deliberation by the committee, each member rated the applicant, by secret ballot, and submitted his/her rating to the Registrar who averaged the ratings for each applicant. The ratings were not discussed. In May, the 224 ratings were ranked and the top 52 candidates were notified of their acceptances. In June, 10 students in the Imi'Ho'ola Post Baccalaureate Program were confirmed to join the 52, thus adding to a total of 62 in the Class of 2006. The Office of the Dean decides upon wait-list. The numbers on this list varies each year.

The median scores of the entering class are: cumulative GPA, 3.52; Science GPA, 3.42; MCAT total, 29; Verbal Reasoning, 9; Physical Sciences, 10; Writing Sample, P; Biological Sciences, 10.

JABSOM remains the nation's most ethnically diverse School of Medicine. There are 16 Japanese, 8 Caucasians, 8 Chinese, 7 Hawaiians/Other, 6 Mixed/Other Asian, 3 Filipino, 3 Korean, 1 American Indian/White, 1 Asian/East Indian, 1 Chamorro, 1 Chamorro/Filipino, 1 Chamorro/Filipino/White, 1 Japanese/White, 1 Okinawan/White, 1 Persian, 1 Tongan, 1 Vietnamese, and 1 Vietnamese/Chinese.

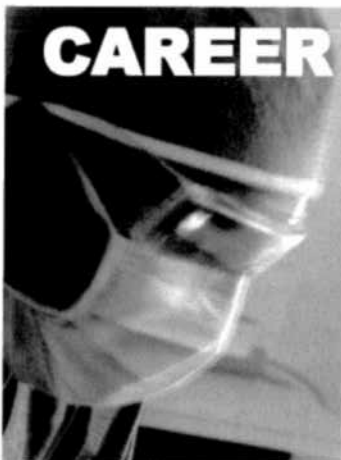
Twenty-seven graduated from colleges in Hawaii, 34 came from mainland colleges and 1 from a foreign college. There were 24 from University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2 from Hilo and 1 from Hawaii Pacific University. Seven are graduates of University of Washington, 3 from University of California, Berkeley, 2 each from Oregon State, Stanford University, and University of California, San Diego. The following university/colleges are represented by one matriculate: Brandeis University, Claremont McKenna College, Colorado College, Creighton University, Harvard University, Hawaii Pacific University, Lewis and Clark College, Macalester College, Marquette University, Point Loma Nazarene College, Reed College, University of Montana, University of Guam, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of California, Irvine, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Wellesley College, and Whitworth College.

One student is entering with a Doctor of Philosophy degree, 13 have Masters degrees and all have Baccalaureate degrees. Eighteen have their degrees in Biology; two each in Biology/Physiology, Cell & Molecular Biology, and Psychology; one in each of the following: Animal Physiology/Neuroscience, Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biochemistry/Chemistry, Public Health, Biochemistry; Biology/Education, Biology/Chemistry, Biology/English, Biology/Ethnic Studies, Biology/History; Genetic & Molecular Biology, Biology/Japanese, Biology/Microbiology/Bacteriology, Biology/Psychology, Biology; Cell & Molecular Biology, Biology; Maternal & Child Health, Biology; Public Health, Business, Chemistry/Math/Physics; Biomed Eng; Tele-Rehab, Chemistry; Physiology, Chinese Studies/Physics, Civil Engineering; Chemistry, Comparative literature, English, Exercise & Sports Science, Science General, Fine Arts; Business, Foreign Language, French, Hospital administration, Life Science, Mathematics; Public Health, Microbiology/Bacteriology, Molecular & Cell Biology, Molecular & Cell Biology, Immunology Emphasis, Pre-Medicine, Religion, Speech, and Zoology; Biomedical Science.

The admission committee has deemed that the 62 are the most likely candidates to succeed in JABSOM for the Medical Doctor (M.D.) degree. They were identified as having the best potential of becoming competent, culturally sensitive, humane physicians. The 26 men and 36 women whose median age is 24 are on a journey that will change their lives — as well as that of others — forever.

On August 2, 2002, at the "White Coat Ceremony", each student received a white coat from the alumni of the Class of 1981, a stethoscope from the Hawaii Medical Association and Pacific Cardiology, a book, "On Doctoring" from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, "Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking", a gift from the Friends of the Medical School and a lapel

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"Evidenced Based...", Continued from p. 192

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pin from the Foundation\*. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Ken Sarawatari, Class of 1981 led the class in restating the "Oath of Hippocrates". Each student will recall this ceremony as they challenge the years of training before them, remembering "... To honor all who have taught me this art and in the same spirit and dedication to impart a knowledge of medicine to others. I will continue with diligence to keep abreast of advances in medicine, and respect those who broaden our knowledge by research. ... that caring for the patient will be my primary concern and while doing so I will honor the autonomy of the sick. I will recognize that such caring requires my being available, giving my time generously, communicating honestly, and comforting as well as treating ..."

### References

1. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, Inc., 619 Palisade Ave., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632.
2. Restatement of the Oath of Hippocrates. John A. Burns School of Medicine. White Coat Ceremony Committee. August 9, 1996 (Rev. August 8, 1998).

\* The pin depicts a logo, a stethoscope in the shape of a heart, surrounded with the words, "Humanism in Medicine".

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